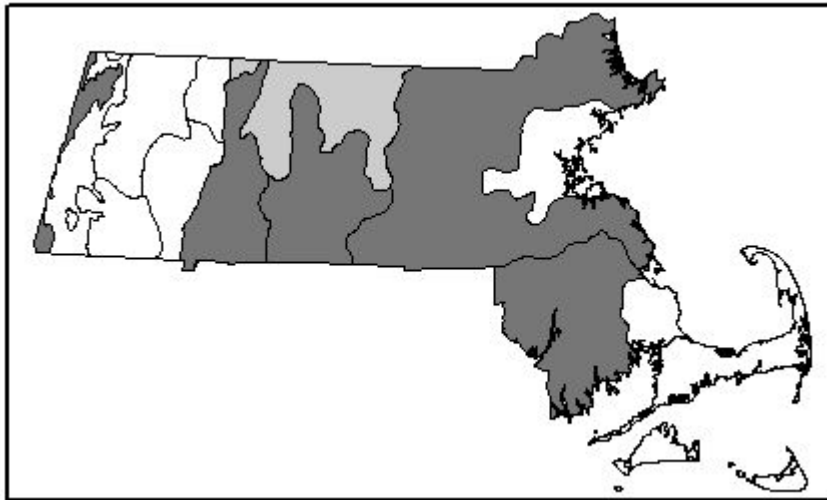


**Community Name:** DRY, RICH ACIDIC OAK FOREST

**Community Code:** CT1B1B0000

**SRANK:** S4



**Concept:** Deciduous, predominantly oak forest with a rich understory of herbaceous plants and graminoids. The shrub layer has fewer ericaceous plants than other oak forests.

**Environmental Setting:** Often steep slopes with warm, southwest exposure. Soil is enriched due to overwash and downslope movement of nutrients. Best developed on less acidic rocks.

**Vegetation Description:** Mesic to dry oak forest of slightly acid, often rocky soils of intermediate fertility, occurring on well-drained loams on mid-slopes and coves. Tree canopy is dominated by a mixture of oaks (*Quercus rubra*, *Q. velutina*, and *Q. alba*), sugar and red maple (*Acer saccharum* and *A. rubrum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and shagbark and other hickories (*Carya ovata*, *C. glabra*, and *C. ovalis*). Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya americana*) form an open subcanopy. A fairly sparse shrub layer includes saplings of canopy tree species and maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*). A rich herbaceous flora includes perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*), four-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*), early meadow-rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*), false foxgloves (*Aureolaria flava*, *A. pedicularia*, and *A. virginica*), wild coffee (*Triosteum aurantiacum*), bush clovers (including *Lespedeza procumbens*), tick-trefoils (*Desmodium rotundifolium* and others), and sedges such as *Carex retroflexa*.

**Associations:** On the rich end of the oak forest continuum but part of the problem of dry, acidic communities that contain a variety of tree oak and pine species. More work is needed to define types.

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** Dry oak forests support a smaller mix of animal species than are found in moister communities. There are no species known to be restricted to the Dry, Rich Acidic Oak Forest community. Common species of dry sites include short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), white footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*), and chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). Snakes of dry forest sites include garter snakes (*Thamnophis s. sirtalis*) and redbelly snakes (*Storeria o. occipitamaculata*). Birds that nest in dry oak forests include Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*).

**Associated Rare Plants:**

RANUNCULUS MICRANTHUS	TINY-FLOWERED BUTTERCUP	T
SPHENOPHOLIS NITIDA	SHINING WEDGEGRASS	T

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**Associated Rare Animals:**

NONE KNOWN

**Examples with Public Access:** None identified on public lands.

**Threats:** Exotics, barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is reported from several sites.

**Management Needs:** Removal of exotics in exemplary cases.

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:** Quercus rubra- Acer saccharum - (Quercus alba) Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum- Quercus rubra \ Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa Forest [CEGL006046]; close to Carya (glabra, ovata) - Fraxinus americana - Quercus (alba, rubra) Forest Alliance -- Carya (glabra, ovata) - Fraxinus americana - Quercus spp. Central Appalachian forest.

**MA (old name):** SNE DRY RICH FOREST ON ACIDIC/CIRCUMNEUTRAL BEDROCK OR TILL.

**ME:** Part of: Oak-Hickory Forest.

**NH:** Semi-rich Appalachian oak- sugar maple forest.

**VT:** Includes Transition hardwoods Talus Woodland; related to Dry oak-hickory-hop-hornbeam forest.

**NY:** Part of Appalachian oak-hickory forest.

**CT:** Related to Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana / Hepatica americana community.

**RI:** Part of: Oak - Hickory Forest.

**Weatherbee:** Part of, or a variant of, Dry Calcareous Oak/Conifer Forest Community.

**Author:** P. Swain **Date:** 8/5/99